



Rural Advocate *Winter 2004*

Arkansas Rural Development Commission

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New One Stop Shop Rural Resource

The Heartland Center for Leadership Development in Lincoln, Nebraska is reaching out to people working with rural communities. The Center is proud to introduce the W.K. Kellogg Collection of Rural Community Development Resources. The Collection offers high quality rural community development materials funded by the Kellogg Foundation and other selected sponsors of recognized rural programs. The materials include guidebooks, manuals, workshop materials, reports, books, and videos.

An annotated bibliography of the information is located on the internet and broken down into the following categories: Community Development, Strategic Planning, Telecommunication/Education, Leadership Development, Economic Development, Land-use/Natural

Resources, and Health Care. Viewers can locate annotations by using a keyword search, browsing by title or browsing by category.

The grant will also provide the Heartland Center with support for them to aid others who want to start or improve their own rural community material collection. The Heartland Center plans to sponsor annual rural community development training centers in Lincoln.

A major benefit of this collection is having a central repository for such materials to discourage new

programs from spending time and money to develop resource materials that may already exist. The Kellogg Collection of Rural Community Development Resources website is located at www.unl.edu/kellogg/main.html.

In this Issue:

- **Receipients of they Cycle I FY05 Rural Services Grants**
- **Information about Act 833 and the important role it plays in rural Arkansas**
- **How Main Street Arkansas is making a difference in towns across the state**

From ARDC Chair and DRS Director

It has been a busy year at Arkansas Rural Development Commission and the Department of Rural Services, and we are proud of all the exciting developments taking place around Arkansas. Our staff is thankful for all of you who foster projects in your communities and apply for grants to make them happen. On page three you will see just some of the grants awarded this year. Working with city and county officials, legislators, firefighters, and volunteers, we see first hand the dedication you put toward making your communities stronger. Without your hard work and enthusiasm, we could not fulfill our goal of advancing the quality of life in Arkansas. Our staff appreciates your commitment, and we are behind you 110%. On behalf of all of us here at the Department of Rural Services and ARDC, have a Happy Holiday and a very Merry Christmas.



Cindy Kauffman
ARDC Chair



Bruce Campbell
DRS Director



**Check out our
website!**

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to find the resources you need to improve your community! Our website has information on all of the grants we offer as well as links to other helpful programs. We also have a calendar of upcoming DRS events, grant recipient information, and much more!

If there is something you would like to see on our website, just let us know about it. We want to do everything we can to support rural Arkansas.

www.arkansas.gov/drs

Act 833 Vital to Arkansas Firefighters

Act 833 is one of the largest sources of money to rural or volunteer departments in the state. Established in 1991, Act 833 provides ½ of 1% of all turn back funds from fire insurance premiums to be divided among the 75 counties in Arkansas based on population. Counties then subdivide the funds among their jurisdictions according to specific needs or population. Funds are used to purchase fire trucks and other firefighting vehicles, to build or renovate fire stations, to acquire additional fire-fighting equipment and communications equipment, and provide training.

Counties go through the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) to apply for Act 833 funds. After reviewing applications, ADEM submits them to the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Administrative Services. Since the fund was created, Arkansas fire departments have received more than \$63 million. For more information about Act 833 visit www.adem.state.ar.us or call ADEM at (501) 730-9750.



Cato Fire Department in Northern Pulaski County purchased this 1981 pumper truck for \$20,000 through Act 833 funds. They also purchased a foam unit for a brush truck.

Downtown is Becoming Uptown

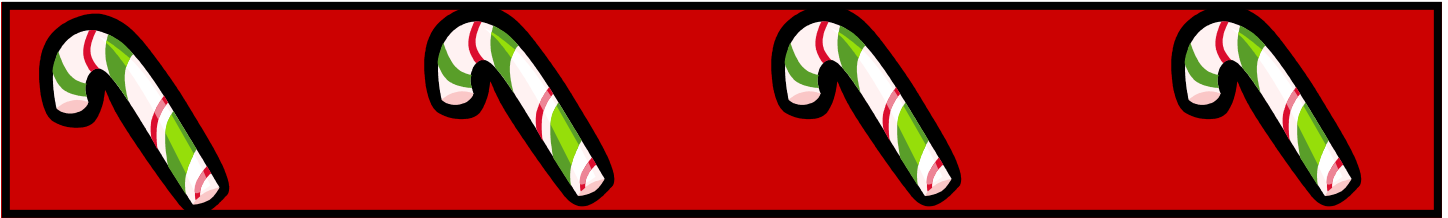
With the help of Main Street Arkansas, towns in our state are bringing in more tourists, jobs and charm with their revived downtown districts. Main Street Arkansas is a program under the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. The Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas serves as a non-profit sponsor while the Arkansas Department of Economic Development acts as the Main Street Arkansas Advisory Board.

Many Arkansas downtown areas were established by pioneer settlers and served as hubs of their community. As towns grew, businesses drifted to outlying areas leaving downtown areas vacant and many times dilapidated. Main Street Arkansas is working to change all that with a program that focuses specifically on organization, design, promotion, and economic restructuring.

Russellville Main Street is just one example of the many success stories in Arkansas. They have transformed Russellville's vacant downtown into a hot spot for restaurants, businesses, and retail shops. The Main Street Arkansas program has worked to create 725 new businesses which in turn have brought in a net gain of 3,840 jobs. A stronger downtown not only generates economic growth, but community pride as well. For more information about Main Street Arkansas call (501) 324-9880 or visit www.arkansaspreservation.org/mainstreet/.

These before and after pictures of Dumas are an excellent example of Main Street Arkansas' great strides. Previously downtown Dumas was deteriorating into an eyesore. Thanks to Main Street Dumas, the district is now impressive and inviting.





***Rural Community Development Grants Received
FY05 Cycle I
Total = \$60,330.00***

<u>Community</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Senator</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Alread	Van Buren	\$10,400.00	Johnson	Berry
Garner	White	\$6,000.00	Capps	Pate
Lake View	Phillips	\$12,564.00	Wilkins	King
Scranton	Logan	\$4,356.25	Trusty	Cleveland
Thida	Independence	\$1,760.81	Critcher	C. Taylor
Wilson	Mississippi	\$15,000.00	Bryles	Goss
Wheatley	St. Francis	\$8,000.00	Luker	Ferguson
Witt Springs	Searcy	\$2,250.00	Laverty	Hathorn

***Rural Fire Protection Grants Received
FY05 Cycle I
Total = \$106,461.00***

<u>Community</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Senator</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Big Fork	Polk	\$15,000.00	Hill	Ogelsby
Buena Vista	Ouachita	\$15,000.00	Malone	White
Casscoe	Arkansas	\$576.50	Glover	Petrus
Diaz	Jackson	\$2,500.00	Critcher	Dickinson
England	Lonoke	\$4,510.00	Glover	L.Evans
Horseshoe Lake	Crittenden	\$15,000.00	Higginbotham	Jones
Mt. Vernon	Columbia	\$15,000.00	Malone	Bennett
N.E.B.C.O	Benton	\$6,797.00	Bisbee	Bledsoe
Ola	Yell	\$9,183.00	Trusty	Gillespie
Parthenon	Newton	\$2,895.00	Laverty	Hathorn
Riverbend	Lafayette	\$15,000.00	Horn	Bennett
Smyrna	Madison	\$5,000.00	Laverty	Hathorn

***County Fair Building Grants Received FY05
Total = \$42,586.00***

<u>Community</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Senator</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Morrilton	Conway	\$2,704.00	Johnson	Ormond
Monticello	Drew	\$4,000.00	Jeffress	Bolin
Ozark	Franklin	\$4,000.00	Whitaker	Verkamp 1/ Prater 2
Salem	Fulton	\$2,586.00	Miller	Hickinbotham
Melbourne	Izard	\$4,000.00	Miller	Weaver
Huntsville	Madison	\$2,500.00	Laverty	Hathorn
Jasper	Newton	\$2,796.00	Laverty	Hathorn
Russellville	Pope	\$4,000.00	Trusty	Lamoureux
Hazen	Prairie	\$4,000.00	Glover	Petrus
Marshall	Searcy	\$4,000.00	Laverty	Hathorn
Mountain View	Stone	\$4,000.00	Miller	Weaver
Clinton	Van Buren	\$4,000.00	Johnson	Berry

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"To Enhance the Quality of Life in Rural Arkansas"

Did You Know...

- ▶ More than 84% of the incorporated cities in Arkansas are below 3,000 in population. The federal government defines rural as any city or town with a population of 20,000 or less.
- ▶ There are 1,000 volunteer fire departments and 15,000 volunteer firefighters in the state of Arkansas.
- ▶ Most fire departments receive membership dues from less than 60% of their citizens.
- ▶ DRS has distributed \$9,881,003.20 to Arkansas rural communities since it was established in 1991.

